Introduction of DO news channel

†2101. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact since the introduction of DD news channel the broadcast of DD metro is not available in the houses having no cable facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government would make available DD Metro alongwith DD News without cable facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the DD News Channel has been launched by converting DD Metro. The new DD News Channel is available terrestrially, in about 50% of the total television homes in the country *i.e.* without cable connection. At present, there is no proposal to restart DD Metro Channel.

Inflow of Ultra-Modern cultural vices by TV channels

2102. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the pattern of governance Government have cast on the TV channels to keep them prevalent in the direction of the national aspects and in the pursuit of the Indian culture;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the in-flow of ultra-modern cultural vices in TV casting by different channels; and

(c) the extent of success in the drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The programmes of all TV channels, when transmitted/re-transmitted, through cable service, are required to adhere to the provisions of the 'Programme Code' and the 'Advertising Code', prescribed under the Cable Television

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Act provides that any authorised officer *i.e.* "DM or SDM or Commissioner of Police" or any other offcer notified in the official gazette; by the Central Government or the State Government, may by order, prohibit transmission or re-transmission of any programme or channel, if it is not in conformity with the prescribed Code. They have the power to seize or confiscate the equipment being used by the cable operator for operating the cable network as well as award other penalties for contravention of the provisions of the aforesaid Act. The Central Government has also constituted two inter-ministerial committees, under Section 20 of the said Act, to look into the violations of the codes. Cognizence of any violation of the Code is taken *suo-moto* or on receipt of a specific complaint. The Programme Code, *inter alia,* prescribed that programmes carried in the cable service should be suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Instructions have also been issued to all TV channels not to telecast music videos/music albums, film trailers and promos that are not certified for "unrestricted public exhibition" by the Central Board of Film Certification. The initiatives have resulted in non-transmission of TV channel TB6' and programme Temptation Island' and taking off-air certain advertisements by various TV channels.

In so far as Doordarshan is concerned, its telecast of programmes is governed by its own broadcast code, which ensures that all programmes are suitable for family viewing.

Action against defaulting producers and agencies

2103. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has initiated any action against the private producers and agencies who owe a lot of money;

(b) if so, the number of private producers and agencies which have been continuously delaying payments;

(c) how much recovery has been made from them and in how many cases legal action has been taken; and

(d) out of the deaulters, how many have been denied permission for their programmes?